

**INTERNSHIP AT SANTA TERESA MONASTERY
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF WOOD SCULPTURES (MAGUEY)
AREQUIPA**

INTRODUCTION

The monastery is located in the city of Arequipa, 746 miles south of Lima and 7,500 feet above sea level. Humidity levels are low and temperatures change drastically from day to night. During the months of June, July, and August, temperatures can drop to 32 degrees Fahrenheit at dawn.

The monastery was built in 1710 and still houses nuns of the Carmelite Order, who are responsible for the extraordinary collection of paintings, ceramics, murals and metal objects dating from the XVI, through the XIX centuries.

After an earthquake in 2001, the nuns decided to transform one of the cloisters into a Colonial Art Museum that will help collect funds for the restoration of the building. The museum is presently working with professional staff in the inventory, investigation, conservation, and museography for this cloister, with a target opening scheduled for July 2004.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The museum has an important collection of colonial objects which need conservation and restoration. Interns will be able to choose to work on any of the following collections:

1. Oil paintings: The intern will get acquainted with the collection and then start working on the consolidation of the painting's wooden and canvas bases.
2. Maguey sculptures: ,
The use of maguey goes back to the pre-Columbian time, when the indigenous found in this wonderful South American plant with soft wood a supplying source of raw material to elaborate hundreds of products. Interns would work on a documentation, removing all layers of "new" paint, replacing missing parts, working on chromatic reintegration and consolidation of maguey objects.
3. Mural Painting: Documentation, removing all layers of "new" paint, removal of salts, consolidation, chromatic reintegration.
4. Musical instruments: the museum owns a XVIII century piano and lute which need cleaning, consolidation of loose parts and tuning. This task can only be assigned to someone with previous experience in the conservation of musical instruments. Musical knowledge is highly required.

During the first days, interns will familiarize themselves with the museum and the collection. Afterwards, the interns will start working on the objects, first evaluating the piece and offering adequate treatments and then starting conservation procedures. All pieces selected will be finished during the intern's stay. Interns will be working in the cloisters of the monastery, in very close contact with the nuns. For this reason all

activity within the monastery must be discrete, quiet, and respectful of the religious community.

NUMBER OF INTERNS, DATES AND TIME PERIOD

Three (3) interns for three months (60 working days) from June 1 through August 31, 2005.

Working schedule: Monday through Fridays from 8 am to 12:00 noon and from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

MATERIALS

To be determined.

SUPERVISION

Project supervisors will be Franz Grupp and Zully Mercado, museum conservators, who will be at the Monastery at all times.

COSTS

The Monastery will provide in-kind support and a 3 bedroom furnished apartment located in a central area near downtown and in front of the monastery.

The American Embassy will provide the materials needed for the internship and up to \$ 300 total for M&I per participant for the time period.

The University or student should provide other costs such as roundtrip international tickets to Lima and in-country tickets to Arequipa, and meals and incidentals.

APPLICANTS

Applicants must be Spanish-speaking American citizens in a graduate program in conservation and restoration.